

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The ballast assembly of claim 3 13 wherein said first plate and said at least one additional plate are each generally planar and are adapted to be stacked one against the other.
5. (Currently Amended) The ballast assembly of claim 3 13 wherein said vehicle mounting member is an elongated mounting projection adapted to be received in a hitch receiver socket at one end of the vehicle adjacent the vehicle bumper.
6. (Currently Amended) The ballast assembly of claim 5 wherein said mounting projection includes said support projection, said at least one additional plate

including a first aperture receiving said support projection such that said first plate and said additional plate are stacked against one another.

7. (Original) The ballast assembly of claim 6 including at least a second support projection spaced from said one support projection, said one support projection and said second support projection extending outwardly away from said first plate, said additional plate including a second aperture spaced from said first aperture for receiving said second support projection.

8. (Original) The ballast assembly of claim 7 including a third support projection, said first support projections positioned generally centrally on said first plate, said second and third support projection spaced from one another and on either side of said first support projection; said additional plate including a third aperture spaced from said first and second apertures, said third aperture receiving said third support projection.

9. (Original) The ballast of claim 8 including a fastener mounted in at least one of said first, second, and third support projections to retain said additional plate on said assembly.

10. (Currently Amended) The ballast assembly of claim 8 wherein each of said first, second, and third support projections includes a fastener mounted therein thereon, said fasteners retaining said additional plate on said assembly.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A ballast assembly for use on a vehicle as a counterweight to an implement on the vehicle, the vehicle having a size and a shape in an area to which said ballast assembly is to be mounted, said assembly comprising:

a ballast member having a predetermined weight and a size and a shape adapted to conform to the size and the shape of the vehicle in the area to which said ballast assembly is to be mounted; and

a vehicle mounting member on said ballast member adapted to mount on the vehicle in the area to which said ballast assembly is to be mounted;

said mounting member projecting outwardly from said ballast member and adapted for removable engagement with the vehicle;

whereby when installed on the vehicle, said assembly provides a counter balance for an implement mounted on the vehicle;

support means on said ballast member for adding additional ballast weight to said assembly;

said ballast member is a first plate, said assembly including at least one additional plate, said support means including at least one support projection for receiving and supporting said at least one additional plate on said first plate;

a plurality of additional plates mounted on said support projection;

said first plate and said additional plates are each sized and shaped so as to be adapted to conform to a size and a shape of a bumper on an end of the vehicle;

The ballast of claim 12 wherein said first plate has a predetermined size and shape, said additional plates each having a shape similar to the shape of said first plate but being successively smaller in perimeter size as compared to said first plate when said plates are viewed head on.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)